

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Northwest Resource Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Northwest Resource Advisory Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

2041

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

03/05/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

03/05/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

5 U.S.C. Appendix

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Sec. 309

13. Effective Date

10/21/1976

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1 Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Quarterly meeting calendar year 2017

Start

12/07/2017

End

- 12/07/2017

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$15,465.00	\$29,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$800.00	\$5,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$800.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
18d. Total	\$17,565.00	\$38,000.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Northwest RAC provides BLM management with diverse viewpoints on a wide variety of public land issues. The Northwest RAC functions as a 15-member committee and as an informal working group to deal with fire policy, weed eradication, mineral management, wildlife, cultural resources, recreation, wild horse management, wilderness management, and other multiple-use land management issues. Several topics that were addressed this year include coordination with other Colorado advisory councils, minerals management, travel management on public lands, wild horse and burro management, fire management, and wilderness issues. Recommendations may be made by the RAC to the BLM after the entire RAC reviews an issue or proposed action. The BLM uses the recommendations as appropriate to inform its decision-making.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Northwest RAC is composed of 15 members balanced among and within the following groups: Category I includes those holding Federal grazing permits, transportation or rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation, OHV users, commercial recreation activities, commercial timber industry, or energy and mineral development; Category II includes nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreation activities, archaeological and historical interests, or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups; Category III includes state, county, or locally elected office-holders, employees of state agencies responsible for the management of natural resources, Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the RAC's area of concern, academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences or representatives of the public-at-large.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The RAC meets as needed to perform its roles and responsibilities. During Fiscal Year 2018, the RAC met once. The meetings consistently addressed issues of importance to the BLM and dealt with the agency's responsibilities associated with public land resource management. The Northwest RAC members also review their effectiveness and role as an advisory committee to keep on track with the RAC's mission. In order to maintain a good working relationship and bring new members up to speed on resource issues, coordination with other advisory councils in Colorado and orientations/briefings are held with the RAC. This effort is on-going as new members come on board annually.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

BLM Colorado has found that the Northwest RAC provides relevant input on a variety of public land issues. The balanced membership of the RAC ensures that advice and recommendations are wholly representative of the local and regional populace, thus providing the BLM with a snapshot of public opinion. The RAC also provides opportunities for the BLM to benefit from the variety of comments they receive from individuals and public land interest groups during the public comment and discussion periods of RAC meetings.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public. Notices of the meetings are published in the Federal Register, posted on the BLM Colorado website, emailed to stakeholders and distributed to local newspapers.

21. Remarks

The NW RAC met once in FY18.

Designated Federal Officer

Andrew Archuleta BLM Northwest Colorado District Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Blecha, Betsy	06/05/2018	06/05/2021	COunty Commissioner	Representative Member
Coleman, Connor	01/28/2016	01/27/2019	Environmental Organization	Representative Member
Comstock, Jeff	06/05/2018	06/05/2021	County Natural Resources Director	Representative Member
Conner, Carl	11/15/2013	11/30/2019	Archaeologist	Representative Member
Cook, Don	06/05/2018	06/05/2021	Couonty Commissioner	Representative Member
Daehling, Kirk	06/05/2018	06/05/2021	General manager, Natural Soda	Representative Member
Hendrickson, Callie	06/05/2018	06/05/2021	Executive Director, Conservation Districts	Representative Member
Jankovsky, Tom	11/30/2016	11/30/2019	Garfield County Commissioner	Representative Member
Linke, Merritt	06/05/2018	06/05/2021	County Commissioner	Representative Member
Ludlam, David	01/26/2016	01/27/2019	Energy and Minerals	Representative Member
McStay, Harold	11/15/2010	11/30/2019	Rancher	Representative Member
Newhart, Joe	06/05/2018	06/05/2021	retired	Representative Member
Pritchard, Mike	01/28/2016	01/27/2019	Dispersed Recreation	Representative Member
Robertson, Scott	11/30/2016	11/30/2019	Rancher	Representative Member

Castro, Brad [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Motorized Groups	Representative Member
Elder, Mooty [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	07/21/2016 02/19/2018 Outfitter	Representative Member
Garrigues, Annette [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Wagon Wheel OHV Club	Representative Member
Jespersen, Soren [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 The Wilderness Society	Representative Member
Kindle, Aaron [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Trout Unlimited	Representative Member
Mobley, Diane [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 White River Riders Saddle Club	Representative Member
Oldland, Jerry [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Livestock grazing	Representative Member
Payne, Nick [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	Representative Member
Peach, Don [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Non-Motorized (Hiker/Biker)	Representative Member
Watson, David [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Yampa Valley Trail Riders	Representative Member
Wedding, Roy [White River Field Office Travel Management Subcommittee]	02/19/2015 02/19/2018 Non-Motorized (Hiker/Biker)	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 25

Narrative Description

The Northwest RAC provides the BLM with diverse viewpoints on a wide variety of public land issues. The Northwest RAC functions as a 15-member committee, as well as through working groups, addressing fire policy, range management, ecology, weed eradication, wildlife issues, cultural resources, recreation issues, wild horse and burro policy and wilderness management. Working groups may meet on their own time outside of the RAC meetings and present their findings to the entire RAC. Operating by consensus, the RAC makes recommendations to the BLM after all its members have carefully reviewed an issue and listened to their constituents. The BLM uses these recommendations as appropriate to inform its decisionmaking.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety



Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

An in-depth analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the Northwest RAC. However, the contributions of the RAC are of great benefit to the BLM.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

31

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Northwest RAC has not made any formal recommendations since FY 2015. During Fiscal Year 2015, the Northwest RAC made one formal recommendation in support of providing funding for private-public partnerships with wild horse advocates in northwest Colorado herd management areas. During Fiscal Year 2014, the Northwest RAC made one formal recommendation supporting a pilot program to help control wild horse population growth in northwest Colorado. During Fiscal Year 2013, the Northwest RAC

made two formal recommendations. The first was to forward the recommendations of its subgroup regarding the Colorado River Valley Field Office Resource Management Plan to the BLM. The second was a recommendation that the BLM limit the scope of its Roan Plateau Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. BLM Colorado worked to have Colorado's RAC charters amended to allow them to review fee proposals under the Recreation Enhancement Act. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Northwest RAC voted to continue this authority. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Northwest RAC passed a resolution recommending three recreation enhancement fee proposals go forward in northwest Colorado as a result of this charter modification.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

39%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Northwest RAC made the following recommendations that were fully implemented: The RAC charter was amended to allow a review for recreation fee proposals. The RAC supported adopting or adjusting fees in three areas, which are now being implemented. The RAC recommended more interagency coordination for air quality impact analyses, which is being done. The RAC recommended strengthening socioeconomic impact analyses in resource management plans, which is being done. An economist attended a RAC meeting to explain how the analyses had been strengthened. The RAC recommended the designation of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. The BLM implemented changes to national fire management strategies supported by the RAC.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

58%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The Northwest RAC made the following recommendations that were partially implemented: The RAC forwarded two recommendations to the BLM from its subgroup on the Colorado River Valley Field Office Resource Management Plan. The BLM considered these recommendations as it developed the RMP. The RAC passed a resolution urging the BLM to limit its scope as it conducts a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Roan Plateau. The BLM considered this resolution as it began developing the Roan Plateau SEIS. The RAC passed resolutions in favor of more management options to be considered for wild horses and burros. The BLM continues to explore a variety of

management options. The RAC supported the timely removal of biomass remaining from significant bark-beetle kill. The BLM continues to work on this challenge. The RAC recommended changes to the central contracting process to provide better opportunities for local involvement in land-use planning. The BLM is considering this. BLM implemented the Roan Plateau Plan as recommended by the RAC. A judge remanded that Roan decision back to the BLM. The BLM forwarded to Congress the RAC's resolution on the specific wilderness study area releases with the requested BLM recommendations on wilderness legislation. The BLM is revisiting the 14-day camping rule regulation based largely on feedback from the RAC. The BLM Colorado State Office is considering recommendations by the RAC on the noxious weed program.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

BLM Colorado officials provide feedback through written responses and presentations during RAC meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The RAC recommendations provide guidance and reassurance to BLM managers that current public land management is administered appropriately and supported by the public.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A